

Phase II

Phase II of the Erie County Forest Management Plan will begin with a ten year schedule of activities recommended to address the goal of creating sustainable Erie County forests. Forest sustainability is defined by the USDA Forest Service as ‘the continued existence and use of forests to meet human physical, economic and social needs; the desire to preserve the health of forest ecosystems in perpetuity; and the ethical choice of preserving options for future generations while meeting the needs of the present.’ Earlier Erie County Forestry reports and studies from 1965, 1981, 1986 and 1987 recommended improving forest health through active management. The current goal will address multi-use considerations - recreation, fire lane management, education, environment, economic and productive uses.

The following suggested schedule proposes measures for good stewardship and sustainability of the Erie County Forests.

2004

- Address public use and access concerns by developing plans for specific Lots
 - Assess the public interests and concerns for Erie County Forests
 - Develop plans for long term family style camping such as log cabins, lean-tos and other types of sites within the Lots on Genesee Road
- Adjust staff levels as appropriate to perform necessary management duties, maintain recreation opportunities, create a safe environment for the public and assist educational visitors
- Develop a 10 year schedule of high priority silvicultural treatments including pre-harvest and intermediate stand treatments and hardwood timber harvesting
 - Perform conifer plantation harvests as markets permit

2004-2013

- Continue following the seven criteria for developing sustainable forests as outlined by

the USDA Forest Service (see <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/sourcebook.htm>)

- Survey and mark property lines for all thirteen Lots. This is approximately 31 miles of boundaries. Priority resurveying and marking should start with those Lots identified with problems, such as Lots 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13
- Strengthen relationships with Local, State and Federal partners
- Continue to develop The Woodlands
 - Plan the construction of a residential, environmental education and conference center using County forest products and ‘Early American’ design

2005-2007

- Increase outdoor educational opportunities for schools, community groups and the general public
 - Promote conservation and respect for the County Forests through proper use and education
 - Create self-guided, interpretive forest trails
 - Install trails in new areas and improve existing trails with signs and kiosks
 - Install and label small forest demonstration plots in Lot 2 with the silvicultural treatments expected to be used in stands throughout the Lots
- Develop a Forest Health Protection Plan with the components of fire, storms, insects, diseases and exotic species
 - Ensure that all silvicultural and property management activities are performed in accordance with applicable forestry and soil and water conservation best management practices
- Protect unique ecological features identified by the survey through signs, inspections and mapping. Utilize assistance from students of Earth Spirit Educational Services, Inc. and University of Buffalo - Environmental Studies Program, and other public or private groups

